

OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COORDINATOR FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT

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7 Jun 96

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY, ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY, WASHINGTON, DC.

SUBJECT: Request for Technical Assistance

As you are aware, the military drug testing laboratories have initiated several studies to improve the screening and confirmation testing for amphetamines and LSD/Iso-LSD respectively. The non-isotopic screening analyses for amphetamines is hindered by the cross reactivity associated with the use of over-the-counter cold medications. This interference is eliminated by the use of the methamphetamine Abuscreen RIA analysis which has a lower rate of cross reactivity with ephedrine/pseudoephedrine. Another mechanism for elimination of this cross-reactivity is the use of periodate. The Service laboratories have conducted periodic analyses to adapt the use of periodate on the Olympus AU800. I request that LCDR Ken Cole, a member of your staff, serve as a study manager in the coordination of these efforts and make recommendations regarding the use of periodate pretreatment of samples prior to analysis on the Olympus AU800. Success in this area would provide a procedure for the conduct of amphetamine analyses independent of the RIA analysis.

Selected Service laboratories have also participated in studies for the conversion of iso-LSD to LSD. The participating laboratories have made several observations and recommendation to improve upon the initial protocol provided by the San Diego Drug Laboratory. I request that Dr. Buddha Paul, a member of your staff, serve as study manager to review the San Diego procedure in conjunction with the Service laboratory data submissions and comments, and provide recommendations and a standardized protocol procedure for iso-LSD/LSD analysis.

In addition, I request that a review be conducted of the Services' guidelines for reporting isomeric forms of amphetamine and methamphetamine, and that recommendations for reporting the d/l isomers be provided.

Lennard Wolfson

Director, Demand Reduction and Systems

CC:

Service Drug Program Managers Commanders/CO/Directors Military Drug Laboratories

